

Taking of Engine 204



Stephanie Fowler, Lori Burch, Councilman Bill DeBlasio, actor Steve Buscemi and Assemblywoman Joan Millman lock arms in front of firehouse on Degraw Street in Cobble Hill. The station, which housed Engine 204, was closed down Sunday despite efforts of concerned citizens, some of who occupied the firehouse briefly.

9-11 hero's wife leads the charge

By Yoav Gonen
for The Brooklyn Papers

The 16 politicians, advocates and community members — locking elbows to create a barricade in front of the firehouse doors in Cobble Hill Sunday morning — were beginning to wonder what it would take to get arrested in this town.

They were three and a half hours into their protest of the mayor's budget-related shutdown of six firehouses — and of Engine 204 on Degraw Street in particular — and the situation seemed to be moving toward a standstill.

All but three of the firefighters they had blocked from leaving the building in this gesture of civil disobedience had just escaped out a back-alley exit. The police seemed comfortable observing from a safe distance, and the hundreds of supporters standing and chanting in front of the firehouse were slowly losing their steam.

That's when Marian Fontana, whose husband, Lt. David Fontana, was killed at the World Trade Center as a member of Park Slope's elite Squad 1 rescue crew, remembered that she had David's old firehouse key.

"I kept it on my [key] ring, for nostalgia more than anything," Fontana said. "[And] it occurred to me as I was standing in front of the door that I could easily go in and maybe that would speed the process up a bit."

Wearing her husband's FDNY jean jacket, Fontana sent word down the line — which included City Councilman Bill DeBlasio, Assemblywoman Joan Millman, and actor and former firefighter Steve Buscemi, a Park Slope resident — that she was about to open the locked red firehouse door.

Millman captured the sentiment of the response that Fontana received: "We said all along that we would do whatever it took."

At 11:15 am, on the day before Memorial Day, the firehouse door flew

See E-204 on page 4

Survivor's tears reflect pain of station closings

By Yoav Gonen
for The Brooklyn Papers

Emilia Massa's tears spoke volumes, spoke the words her limited English skills prevented her from saying.

Sitting face to face for the first time with the firefighters, emergency medical technicians and hospital paramedics who resuscitated her after she went into cardiac arrest on Dec. 27, 2001, she was overcome with emotion.

"I felt happy today," Massa said later, speaking in Spanish. "My heart was beating strong."

Massa, 70, a native of Puerto Rico, was one of six victims of cardiac arrest who were reunited with their saviors at the Fire Department's annual "Second Chance Brunch" in Downtown Brooklyn last Tuesday. The May 20 event offered the rare opportunity, in these times of budget cuts and imminent firehouse closings, for Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services personnel to celebrate both their hard work and cooperation, and more importantly, to celebrate life.

But the event was particularly meaningful for the Cobble Hill firefighters sitting at the table with Massa, who witnessed her tears, which told half the story, while the white button pinned to the lapel of her black blazer told the rest.

"Save E-204," it read, in black letters encircling the image of a red fire truck.

The men who were first on the scene after Massa collapsed inside a friend's house on Hicks Street that day, the men who gave her oxygen, performed CPR and set up the defibrillation machines to shock her motionless heart before the paramedics arrived, those men were from Engine 204 on Degraw Street, one of six firehouses that would be closed by Mayor Michael Bloomberg a week later because of the city's budget crisis.

Eight firehouses were originally scheduled for closure by a panel appointed by the mayor, Council Speaker Gifford Miller and Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta, but two were saved from the chopping block, Bloomberg said last Monday, because of the city and package handed down from Albany. He said the remaining six firehouses, four of which are in Brooklyn, still must be shut down due to the city's budget deficit.

And while the tone of Tuesday's brunch event was clearly a joyful one, the men of Engine 204 couldn't help seeing Massa as the perfect example of why closing down their firehouse would be disastrous.

"If the engine company hadn't been there, there'd be a very good chance that she wouldn't be here today," said Daniel O'Gara, former captain of Engine 204.

See SURVIVOR on page 4

Bridge shines despite rain

By Deborah Kolben
and Yoav Gonen
The Brooklyn Papers

The skyline of Manhattan was shrouded in fog Saturday morning, and the air was cool and damp as Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Borough President Marty Markowitz, and Sen. Chuck Schumer stroled across the Brooklyn Bridge to Manhattan in honor of the 120th anniversary of the bridge's opening.

Dressed casually and walking with a small pool of event sponsors and reporters, the three men were jovial and talkative despite the 8 a.m. mist.

"Part of the reason I'm here is to see [Marty] in action," said a smiling Schumer, who wore a Fire Department fleece and a baseball cap. Judging by the periodic laughter, Markowitz didn't disappoint.

Greeted upon their entrance to Manhattan by both Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields and a light rainfall, Markowitz provided the first of many light-hearted jokes at the borough across the river.

"It's raining? What's going on here?" he shouted. "It's sunny over in Brooklyn!"

He walked into a small gathering of runners and walkers who welcomed the officials with cheers, and he immediately sought out fellow Brooklynites.

"Who's from Brooklyn?" he shouted in his booming voice, moving slowly through the crowd.

And while the four leaders addressed the crowd of about 50 people

See BRIDGE on page 7



Borough President Marty Markowitz's celebration of the 120th birthday of the Brooklyn Bridge lasted from morning until night, starting (bottom left) with a march over the famous span that included Sen. Chuck Schumer and Sandy the Seagull, and ending with concerts in Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park (bottom right). Members of the Brooklyn Philharmonic (top left) perform at the park, where earlier in the day Charlotte Phillips and Kirt Robinson showed off their West Indian parade costumes.

Monty Bomber II: I didn't do it

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

If you believe a bombing suspect's attorney, it's now back to a case of whodunit.

The lawyer representing Andrasan Scott, the man indicted this week for planting five pipe bombs in a police officer's car on Montague Street, charged in court Wednesday that he knew who "actually committed the crime."

"I have his name, telephone number and address," Scott's attorney, William Alford, said to Judge Neil Firetop. "He's readily available to surrender."

Before Alford would disclose the suspect's identity, however, he said he was negotiating with the district attorney's office for a dismissal or leniency for his client.

Firetop wasn't buying it and when Alford

asked for bail to be set, the judge responded, "If someone else committed the crime then have him arrested."

The DA's office denied any deal was in the works and acknowledged that while there were other people involved in the case, Scott was among them and will therefore be prosecuted.

Scott, 29, was in court for an arraignment after District Attorney Charles Hynes announced indictments against him and Stephen Alster on Tuesday.

Alster, 66, who is already serving time for setting off an explosive device in the same police officer's Brooklyn Heights home, was scheduled to be arraigned on Tuesday but that was put off until later this week.

Alster's attorney, Carl Spector, did not return phone calls seeking comment.

On March 31, shortly after 10 a.m., five PVC

pipes filled with gasoline and Sheetrock screws as well as a 38-caliber revolver and a 380-caliber automatic were discovered in the backseat of Police Officer Yenny Thomas' 1992 Isuzu SUV.

The devices were inoperative and the door of the car was unlocked and parked in a fire zone in front of Thomas' home on Montague Street, between Hicks Street and Montague Terrace, leading police to believe the bombs were intended to be discovered rather than to detonate.

An anonymous tipster led officers to the vehicle.

The device was planted the day before Yenny Thomas and her husband, Steven Thomas, were scheduled to make a deposition in their \$75 million civil suit against Alster for setting off a bomb at a party in their home in 2001.

The 2001 pipe-bombing of the Thomases' home at 68 Montague St. was committed by Alster, who was thought to have an obsessive crush on Yenny Thomas.

While Alster was being held on \$10 million bail on Rikers Island, he met Scott, 29 — an ex-con with a lengthy rap sheet including prison stints for robbery — who was serving time on weapons charges.

After Scott was transferred from Rikers Island in December, he kept in touch with Alster, who has been at the upstate Green Haven Correctional Facility since his conviction in May 2002.

Prison records show Scott visited Alster nine times between on March 1 and April 22. Alster also made regular calls to Scott from prison, which were recorded, according to police.

See BOMB on page 3

With E-278 gone, Sun'Park house has skeleton crew

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Days before the mayor shut down six city firehouses, four of them in Brooklyn, state Sen. Marty Golden visited a car dealership in Bay Ridge that had been gutted by an electrical fire.

While none of the shuttered firehouses are located in his district, Golden said the closing of Engine Company 278 in nearby Sunset Park was a "matter of life and death" for his community, which stretches across southern Brooklyn, because that firehouse is a backup for those in Bay Ridge and Dyker Heights.

When an electrical fire ripped through the Nissan car dealership on 65th street between Fifth and Sixth avenues last week, Engine 278 was the first backup unit to respond to the call. The blaze left four firefighters hospitalized.

"The backup unit is the only reason those men are alive," said Golden, a former police officer, who was joined Friday, the day after the fire, by members of the Uniformed Firefighters Association for a press conference at the dealership.

Golden touted the Engine 278 firefighters as the heroes of the day, saying they pulled firefighters out from beneath a collapsed ceiling. He lamented the loss of the firehouse on Seventh Avenue at 50th Street.

But in a prepared statement, Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta downplayed their role, saying Engine 278 was one of five units to respond to the fire and that the four firefighters had actually walked out of the building, collapsed outside, and were treated by EMS personnel before being taken to the hospital.

Because firehouses in Bay Ridge are often called to service in Staten Island, Golden said Engine Company 278 in Sunset Park was crucial as both a primary and backup unit to respond to fires in Bay Ridge and Dyker Heights.

"The answer is additional firehouses. This is about life and death, not money," Golden said.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg would save the closings would not threaten the communities they currently serve and would save the city approximately \$6 million toward its \$3.8 billion deficit.

The real problem, in addition to the closings is the shift of having Brooklyn

See E-278 on page 7

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Fights off a rapist

By Patrick Gallahe
The Brooklyn Papers

A woman narrowly escaped a brutal attack in Downtown Brooklyn on May 20.

The victim, 27, told police she was walking home at 3 am, when a man approached her from behind and said, "Give me your wallet." The victim told him she only had \$7 and she handed it over.

The assailant then wrapped his arms around her and pulled her into Red Hook Lane, an alley between Fulton and Livingston streets. He ordered her to lie down and began to rub himself against her. When he tried to unbutton her pants she pushed him away, escaped his grip and fled on Fulton Street.

The assailant was described as a black male about 45-50 years old, standing 5-foot-6.

Debit theft

A 31-year-old Sunset Park woman entered the 78th Precinct in Park Slope complaining that someone seized the opportunity to shamelessly shop on her tab.

The victim told police that on May 16, at around 3:30 pm, she accidentally left her debit card in an ATM machine at the Astoria Federal Savings Bank on Seventh Avenue at President Street. The debit delinquent snatched the card and racked up \$1,850 in illicit charges for groceries, gasoline and motor oil.

Pineapple burg

A 28-year-old man woke up in his Pineapple Street home on May 19, at 12:30 pm, to find

that someone had broken in and plucked his laptop computer and cell phone.

The victim had gone to sleep at around 3 am, but woke up to find the front door to his apartment, between Hicks and Henry streets, forced open and the items gone.

99 nets 50

A bargain-rate thief snatched a purse in the unlikelyst of places on May 24 — a 99-cent store on Fifth Avenue between 14th and 15th streets.

The victim, 24, told police that at 6:50 pm, she placed her purse on the counter while waiting to pay for items. The crook grabbed the bag and fled with her credit cards, identification and \$50.

On guard

A woman was arrested on May 23, after allegedly trying to flee a store on the corner of Court and Livingston streets with two sweaters and three pocketbooks after showing the security guard through a window.

Police said the guard spotted the woman attempting to leave the store at 3:40 pm and he tried to stop her. He told police she shoved him into a window, which broke, causing cuts to his hand. A 45-year-old woman was arrested.

Gone fishing

A Park Slope resident lost her Oldsmobile Cutlass Ciera as well as tools and fishing gear on May 23.

The victim, 46, parked at 13th Street, between Fifth and Sixth avenues, on May 22 at 8 am. By the next day, at 10 am, however, she found a Volvo and a Chevy parked in the spot. The vehicle and the gear it contained were gone.

There was no broken glass on the scene and the tow pound had no record of her vehicle.

Train attack

A man, 24, was attacked at the Hoyt-Schermerhorn A.C.G. train station after he dozed off on the subway.

Police said two men attacked the victim at 3 am on May 23, one using a sharp object to slash him. The pair allegedly grabbed the victim's earnings and ran, but one suspect, 22, was caught while fleeing the station. Another suspect has been identified and is wanted by police.

Hair pull

A fight broke out between two women at the same Hoyt-Schermerhorn station at 5:15 pm on May 22.

The victim, 30, told police she noticed the woman had removed her MensCard from her jacket pocket. When she demanded the card back, the pick-pocket allegedly grabbed the victim by the hair and pulled her to the ground. She then escaped on a southbound A-train.

F train muggers

Five girls mugged a fellow straphanger teenager for jewelry on a southbound F train on May 23.

The victim, 15, told police that the felonious females boarded the train at the Smith and Ninth Street stop at around 8:30 am. During the ride, they ordered her to get up, then took a ring and a bracelet before they escaped into the Seventh Avenue station, on Ninth Street at Seventh Avenue.

Fought the law

A pair of motorists stopped for an infraction by a traffic cop ganged up on the officer with kicks and punches.

According to police, the officer stopped the man and woman in their car on Pacific Street at Smith Street shortly before 4 pm on May 20. The pair then flew into a fit of road rage.

The cop said the man, 35, punched him in the face and kicked him in the ankles and knees while his wife, 31, hit him in the chest. They fought the law, but the law won once again, and they were charged with felony assault.

Civic lesson

A 1999 Honda Civic with a bicycle rack attached vanished without a trace from its parking space on Prospect Park West at Garfield Place.

The victim had parked the car on May 23, at around 8 am, and returned to the car at 2 pm the following day.

BOMB

Continued from page 1

The conversations record Scott warning Alster not to discuss specifics about their arrangement because they were being taped. The two also allegedly negotiated a fee over the phone and Scott said he would, "Keep his word ... and do what has to be done."

Prosecutors charge that Alster hired Scott to plant the bombs in order to cast his original conviction in doubt.

Scott was arrested outside his home in Rosedale, Queens, on April 24. Inside his apartment, police found wires and adhesive materials, which can be used to make bombs, prosecutors say.

If convicted, Scott faces 25 years to life in prison.

Alster who is already serving 20 years to life, faces an additional seven years in prison if found guilty.

Scott was brought into court on Tuesday in handcuffs and wearing slacks, a gray button-down shirt and a windbreaker. A stocky man with close-cropped hair and a scar across the right side of his face, Scott appeared relaxed and smiled several times at his attorney before he was called before Firing.

Alford would not discuss specifics about the "real culprit," other than to say, "In exchange for us giving up the guy who committed this crime we want a deal for Mr. Scott."

Scott is due back in court on July 16 and Assistant District Attorney Joseph DiBenedetto, counsel to the racketeers division, will prosecute the cases together, unless the defense makes a motion to have their trials severed.

DiBenedetto won a conviction of Alster last year.

Ed Weintrob's column

will return next week

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The Brooklyn Papers

PARENT

Dilligence beats lessons

Q: "My 3-year-old guppy child is afraid of water, but her mother wants to teach her how to swim because they live on the waterfront."

— an uncle
As Toddlers and preschoolers who have no fear of the water — who only know the fun of it — have a higher risk of drowning than their more cautious peers.

But no matter how well your little guppy seems to adjust to the water during swim classes, don't get lulled into a false sense of security about her ability to swim.

"Swimming with an emphasis on survival doesn't mean you can sit back and read the paper and drink a beer while your child is in the water," says Nadyne Siegel-Brown, a swim instructor in

Atlanta who teaches "Infant Aquatic Survival" lessons.

There are many differences in swimming programs across the country, but lessons are no substitute for the most important deterrent for drowning: close supervision.

"There are added layers of protection — high locks, fences and lessons that teach the back float," Siegel-Brown says. "In my mind, it can buy you the time you need to find your child."

At what age and in what manner children should be taught to swim is open to debate. But one thing is clear: No matter the warnings, summer always brings the same kind of tragic stories about children drowning: there wasn't a scream, the parent was away for only a moment.

Parent-to-Parent



By Betsy Flieger

Drowning is a silent death. Among children 1 to 5 years old, unintentional drowning is the second-leading cause of death after motor vehicle accidents.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends that children be at least 4 years old before taking formal lessons so that they have the necessary strength and coordination to swim. Around water, supervise within an arm's reach. Flotation devices and lessons are no reason for parents to be any less vigilant around water, the AAP warns.

"Now that we are around water so much, and with a new above-ground pool next door, we felt like we had to go ahead with lessons," says one mother who started one of her sons in YMCA swimming lessons.

sons at 3 years old. "We feel better exposing them to swimming and hope they will remember what to do if they fall in the water."

There is no specific point at which a child is magically ready to swim, says infant swimming specialist Judy Heumann of Boulder, Colo., who developed the "Infant Aquatic Survival" program to teach basic survival swimming skills to children age 6 months to 5 years.

Babies as young as 6 months can be taught to float, and children over 1 year can learn to swim, she says. The initial focus of her lessons is survival in case of an aquatic accident, says Heumann, who has nearly 30 years of experience teaching babies and young children to swim.

One skill is the back float. Babies and toddlers cannot raise their heads to take a breath, so they are taught to roll completely over onto their backs to float, relax and breathe. Babies are quite buoyant and can remain in this position for a long time, even while fully clothed, she says.

Can you help?
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E-204...

A firefighter from Engine 204 (far right) responds to a fire at Fourth Avenue and First Street Saturday.

Continued from page 1

open, and a brief period of commotion and confusion ensued. Fontana bolted in first, and was quickly faced with a rush of fire marshals that had been stationed inside to guard the building. Seeing one of them reach the door and physically block her fellow protesters from coming in, she hit the button on the wall to open the garage door.

"That was unplanned, kind of an instinct," she said. "I saw that everyone wouldn't have made it." By the time both doors to the firehouse were finally shut and re-locked, 14 people had infiltrated the firehouse, although two of them were soon let out because of health concerns. On the street outside, people cheered, and soon resumed their newly invigorated chanting.

"What do we want?"

"204!"

"When do we want it?"

"Now!"

Members of the community, although united in the cause, expressed different emotions about the closing of the firehouse, ranging from anger to sadness, and in some cases, fear.

"I'm so scared that they're leaving," said Antoinette Barile, a resident of the neighborhood for more than 50 years. She lives two blocks up from the firehouse on Degraw Street.

"I stopped breathing twice," said Barile, who suffered from congestive heart failure. The firefighters of Engine 204 saved her both times, once in 2000, and again last year.

"I wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for this firehouse," she said.

A lieutenant from a nearby firehouse, who declined to identify himself because of a gag order within the Fire Department, had a difficult time containing his anger, and even heckled a policeman about arresting firefighters.

"We always like to do our job, [but] you reach a certain point that it's just ridiculous," he said. "Response time to this building across the street will take 20 minutes. It's gonna be a mess. Children have to be before this [explosive] realizes it."

he said, referring to Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Meanwhile, the dozen protesters inside the firehouse were talking with two firefighters and Capt. Brenda Berkman.

Fontana found herself talking to one of them, Firefighter Tom Westhoff, 34, who had known her husband.

"He was really touched that we went to such great lengths to stand by them," said Fontana.

Shortly after noon, the remaining firefighters were escorted out of the two-story brick building by police.

"Don't let this fight die. Keep this firehouse open," Berkman shouted to the protesters.

Westhoff, who had stayed in the firehouse overnight and had been off duty as of 9 a.m. — the time the firehouse was officially closed by fire marshals — expressed relief at being able to go home, but also solidarity with the protesters.

"I think it's great that the community came out and rallied and tried to take back what's rightfully theirs. This is their safety," he said, with his 10-

SURVIVOR...

Continued from page 1

gine 204 and one of the first firefighters on the scene that day.

"I'm not trying to be dramatic," he added. "It's a fact."

Tom Westhoff, a firefighter and trained certified responder at Engine 204, was also one of the first to arrive.

"It's a good feeling to know that you saved somebody and gave them a second chance," Westhoff said. "But it's a shame they're getting rid of 204. There goes a lot of second chances for people."

Medical emergencies make up a sizeable percentage of the calls responded to by firehouses: in 2001, Engine 204 responded to 392 medical emergencies out of 1,614 total responses, almost 25 percent, according to Fire Department spokesman Mike Loughran.

The hospital parameters on hand Tuesday confirmed that the rapidity with which firefighters respond to medical emergencies is essential to saving lives.

"[Engine] 204 arrived first that day," said Ed Caballero, director of EMS at Long Island College Hospital in Cobble Hill, the hospital where Massa re-

couped for 10 days. "They resuscitated her to the point that she's here today."

Judging by response times provided by Commissioner Scoppetta, firefighters often arrive on the scene more than two minutes earlier than EMS responders, with a citywide average response time of 4 minutes 46 seconds as compared to 6 minutes 55 seconds for EMS personnel.

Engine 204's response time in 2001 was well below the city average, at 3 minutes 27 seconds, but this speed is, ironically, one of the factors used against the company in selecting it for shut-down — the panel estimated that the added minute it would take for nearby companies to respond to calls in Cobble Hill and surrounding neighborhoods would still keep response times below the city average.

Battalion Chief O'Garra doesn't buy that reasoning.

"A minute doesn't sound like a long time, but in a situation where someone's life hangs in the balance, that's a long time," he said. "A fire drags in intensity every minute. [And] in a case where someone's not breathing, no pulse, a minute is critical."

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Teens terrorize Boerum Hill

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

Police believe a string of robberies in Boerum Hill is part of a pattern of crimes by a group of teenagers over the last several weeks.

The pack of armed robbers, who police suspect in at least seven robberies since April 30, struck again this week at Wyckoff and Bond streets.

On April 30, at around 11:15 p.m., a 15-year-old boy was walking near the Gowanus Houses when he was confronted by a pair of boys who claimed his presence was disrupting their "territory," according to the police report.

The boy apologized and attempted to walk away but was threatened with a gun and punched in the face. The duo then took his cell phone and

\$11 before they fled.

Police believe the gang has worked individually and in groups of up to five.

Earlier on April 30, at 9:25 p.m., two robbers pushed a man to the ground from behind on the corner of State and Bond streets. When the suspect fell the two men grabbed his wallet, containing identification and miscellaneous papers. Both muggers then fled south on Bond Street.

A week later, at 9:30 p.m. on May 7, at Wyckoff and Bond streets, three boys attempted to hold up a 34-year-old man but fled without taking anything.

Then on May 9, a deliveryman was robbed at gunpoint by a masked duo that got away with \$13 worth of Chinese food.

The victim said he was on Wyckoff Street between Bond and Nevins streets, at 9:20 p.m., when the gunmen confronted him. One said, "Hurry up or I will kill you." The victim handed over the food and the masked men fled.

On May 11, shortly before 11 p.m., a 15-year-old man was set upon on his way home from the subway at Bergen and Bond streets by four robbers who ordered him to his knees at gunpoint. They stole his wallet, which contained his identification and he was ordered to count to 100 before they took off.

On May 13, three incidents occurred, the first at around 3:20 p.m., when five boys grabbed a gold chain from a 16-year-old girl's neck. Then at 11 p.m., at Hoyt and Bergen streets, two muggers held up a 41-year-old man from behind taking his wallet, and at 1:20 a.m., a woman, 41, was held up for cash.

Descriptions of the young men are vague since they wore hooded jackets or sweatshirts as well as masks in several of the incidents.

While robbery is still down slightly in the 84th Precinct, which covers Brooklyn Heights, Boerum Hill and Downtown Brooklyn, from 103 this time last year to 101, there was a spike in incidents between May 12 and May 19. There were 12 incidents that week alone compared to four during the same period in 2002.

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Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 2nd day of May, 2003, bearing the Index Number N02240003, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of: Quidale Faith Chomela. My present name is: Tension Faith Chomela. My present address is: 1015 Avenue N, Brooklyn, NY 11228. My place of birth is: Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is: 11/06/62.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 2nd day of May, 2003, bearing the Index Number N02240003, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of: Jalen Tyler Williams-Miller. My present name is: Jalen Tyler Williams-Miller. My present address is: 310 Lenox Road, #6E, Brooklyn, NY 11226. My place of birth is: Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is: 09/25/02.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 2nd day of May, 2003, bearing the Index Number N02240003, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of: Jakenwa Mercedes Jones. My present name is: Jakenwa Mercedes Jones. My present address is: 302

Backbridge St., #1C, Brooklyn, NY 11233. My place of birth is: Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is: 02/25/68.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 2nd day of May, 2003, bearing the Index Number N02240003, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of: Joseph Beasly. My present name is: Jose Beasly. My place of birth is: Mexico City, DF, Mexico. My date of birth is: 02/26/64.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 27th day of May, 2003, bearing the Index Number N02373003, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of: Haim Aladino Paredes. My present name is: Haim Aladino Paredes. My present address is: 443 Stuyvesant St., Brooklyn, NY 11223. My place of birth is: Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is: 02/27/61.

NOTICE OF SALE, SUPREME COURT, COUNTY OF KINGS, JP Morgan Chase Bank as Trustee for the CERS Mortgage Pass-Through

Certification, Series 2002-512, Plaintiff against Lender Trust, et al., Defendants. Pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure and sale entered herein and dated April 22, 2003, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction on the Kings County Courthouse, Room 261, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, County of KINGS, State of New York, on June 26, 2003 at 3:00 P.M. premises on the westerly side of Crystal Street, 180 feet south of Gloucester Avenue, being a plot 20 feet by 100 feet and known as 125 Crystal Street, Brooklyn, New York. Approximate amount of bid \$24,488.52 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of final judgment, Index Number 944032. Dated: May 12, 2003. Referee: W. Applebaum, Esq., Referee: LJP Associates, LLC, Referee: LJP Associates for Plaintiff, P.O. Box 510, 33 Quance Street, Syosset, New York 11791-0510.

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Judge faces 4 years in divorce fix

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

A grand jury this week handed down seven indictments against a judge and others allegedly involved in a courthouse corruption ring that fixed divorce cases.

Suspended Brooklyn Supreme Court Judge Gerald Garson has been charged with six counts of receiving reward for official misconduct and faces four years in prison if convicted.

One suspect charged during the initial arrests was not indicted. Lawyer Paul Siminovsky is cooperating with District Attorney Charles Hynes to build a case against Garson.

Hynes would not disclose details of what Siminovsky will receive in return for his cooperation.

The indictment alleges that between Oct. 9, 2001, and March 10, 2003, Garson accepted gifts including cash and cigars to advise Siminovsky how to argue cases.

Siminovsky, who was charged with offering bribes to the judge on behalf of clients.

Garson's attorney, Ronald Fischetti, told The Brooklyn Papers that Siminovsky made erroneous claims to clients that he was able to bribe the judge, but never actually did so.

Siminovsky's Court Street attorney, Anthony Bramante,

declined to comment on Fischetti's claims.

Hynes' office would not discuss whether Siminovsky was turning over information on any other judges. Bramante said he was unaware whether any other jurists have been implicated.

The district attorney's office said Garson originally cooperated with the investigation, but they declined to specify how. Published reports, however, have indicated that after being confronted with the evidence against him, Garson told investigators judgeships were for sale in Brooklyn by county Democratic party leaders.

He reportedly wrote a note to meetings with at least one Brooklyn Democratic leader to discuss

elevating friends to judgeships for a fee. That leader neither encouraged nor discouraged the suggestion, according to reports.

"The situation now is not being discussed," said Hynes' spokesman Jerry Schenker.

"We're not cooperating with the DA's office because there's nothing to cooperate about," Fischetti said. "He's been charged and we intend to plead innocent on June 9 [at the next scheduled court appearance]. And we're prepared to go to trial."

Garson, 70, has been suspended without pay.

Since Garson, the second Brooklyn Supreme Court judge to be charged with a felony in less than 18 months, was arrested,

Hynes has announced the formation of grand jury to investigate the judicial selection process.

"I want to emphasize that the investigation continues not only for the current defendants who are the subject of this indictment, but for the broader aspects, which include the manner by which Supreme Court justices are chosen," Hynes said on Thursday, after announcing Garson's indictment.

Hynes, who has strong ties to the Brooklyn Democratic leadership, has pledged to be the lead prosecutor in any discoveries of judicial corruption.

"The message is, if there's a corrupt judge in this county, I'm going to be the lead attorney,"

Hynes said after Garson's arrest on April 23.

Also indicted were: Nissan Elmann, who prosecutors say brokered a Garson verdict; Abraham Levi, a litigant who allegedly agreed to pay over \$10,000 to Elmann to secure the desired outcome of his divorce case; court officer Louis Salerno, who allegedly routed cases to Garson; and Rabbi Ezra Zafarani and his daughter, Esther Weitzner, who allegedly planned to bribe the judge to secure custody for Weitzner of her child.

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Norman stalls judge picker reform

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

Kings County Democratic Committee members seeking to change the system by which judges are chosen for election, and specifically seeking to oust three members of the screening panel, will have to wait.

A three-hour executive committee meeting held May 22 at the Park Plaza Diner in Brooklyn Heights resulted in a 9-5 vote with the county leader, Assemblyman Clarence Norman, who

earliest in the evening called for further study of the screening process.

The reform proposal, put forth by Marine Park Councilman Lew Fidler, a district leader since 1992, will be shelved for six weeks to allow a study of the proposal by an ad hoc committee to be appointed by Norman.

"I think we would have looked a lot better if we had taken a more concrete step," Fidler said after the meeting.

Norman defended Brooklyn's judicial selection process, saying the panel's findings were reinforced by subsequent meetings with the Brooklyn Bar Association and the Association of the Bar of the City of New York.

"We have an ad hoc committee that is looking at making our present system even better," he said.

Fidler's proposal incorporated ideas from 52nd Assembly

District leaders Liz Daly and Alan Fleishman, to completely revamp the composition of Brooklyn's controversial judicial screening panel in the wake of internal scandals involving Brooklyn judges.

In a May 19 letter to district leaders, Daly and Fleishman called for the removal of three particular panel members: attorneys Louis Rosenthal, Ronald Aiello and Ravi Batra, Norman's law partner.

Since January 2002, two judges have been indicted, one of whom pleaded guilty to bribery. The judge was removed from the bench for allegedly submitting his apartment over 10 years and depositing the money paid to him into an escrow account.

And Brooklyn Surrogate Court Judge Michael Feinberg is facing hearings before the state Commission on Judicial Conduct for allegedly approving exorbitantly high legal fees, which were discussed for three hours.

In addition, Brooklyn District Attorney Charles Hynes has convened a grand jury to investigate the method of judicial selection in Brooklyn.

Since Justice Gerald Garson's arrest in April for accepting gifts to fix divorce cases, Daly and Fleishman have pushed for a new panel, comprised of appointments from academic institutions, bar associations

and public interest groups, with findings to be made public among the judicial convention and district leaders.

At last Thursday's meeting, Fidler offered a modified proposal that would have made two-thirds of the panel appointees of academic institutions, ethnic bar associations and legal services agencies.

Reformers within the Brooklyn Democrats were frustrated with yet another roadblock.

"We're trying to create a more open and honest process," Fleishman said. "They should be helping us not stalling us at every turn. A panel not controlled by insiders is a healthy thing for Brooklyn."

Said Fidler, "I would have preferred that [Norman] saw what I see, which is that we have a crisis at least in terms of public perception. If we want to elect judges and make them Democrats that we support we have to do something significant — and quickly."

Two members of the screening panel, Barry Kamins and

George Farkas, both Court Street attorneys, resigned from the screening panel in early May.

Among the three screening panel members at the center of the controversy, Batra's actions in 2000 may have been the toughest for exposing patronage and cronyism in the Kings County Democratic Party. A letter of resignation from the party, drafted and made public by two lawyers, complained that Batra was keeping lucrative re-employment cases for himself.

Thomas Garry and Attorney Lew Fidler specifically referred to the reemployment of the troubled Cypress Hills Cemetery.

Attorney General Eliot Spitzer tried to have Batra removed from the reemployment, essentially a position as court-appointed manager, and Batra stepped down from the position.

That letter and subsequent investigations by a state judicial ethics panel exposed a system of patronage among the Democrats, in which judges were directed by party officials as to which attorneys should be assigned to reemployment cases.

That ultimately led to a severe rebuke and strict guidelines handed down by the state's chief judge, Judith Kaye.

Aiello was a former chief administrative officer for Brooklyn, who, the Daily News has reported, padded "the court's payroll with two of his relatives." He resigned in the 1990s.

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Shipper wants piers working

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

The fate of Brooklyn's working waterfront sparked a spirited battle this week between consultants hired to study the best future uses for Piers 6-12 and the man who operates a shipping business on all but one of those piers.

The leases for the piers are up for renewal next April and there seems to be no shortage of interest from both the private and public sector.

But if American Stevedoring owner Sal Catucci, who operates one of the largest cocoa importing companies in the country, can have his way, the piers will stay the way they are, namely for maritime use.

"We will favor nothing in the beginning. Maybe maritime is the best use," said John Alschuler, president of Hamilton, Rahmstovitz & Alschuler (HRA), the consulting firm hired by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and the city Economic Development Corporation to examine alternative uses for the piers.

But Alschuler tempered that comment, made at a public meeting to present some of HRA's preliminary findings, in Red Hook Thursday night, saying that the status quo wasn't working.

"Something has got to change," said Alschuler.

For a decade, the Cobble Hill, Columbia Street Waterfront District and Red Hook neighborhoods, which the piers border, have been caught in a battle between supporters of housing and those who want to maintain industrial and maritime uses.

In recent months interest in the piers has been running high, with Carnival Cruise Lines negotiating for Pier 7 and Phoenix Distribution, a beverage warehouse, distribution and sales company, interested in Pier 12.

There was also an application, which was denied by Community Board 2 and is now before the Board of Standards and Appeals, for a zoning variance for 160 Broadway St., a former manufacturing building that a developer wanted to turn into a condominium.

About 75 percent of Red Hook's total population lives in the Red Hook Houses, a public housing project, according to Phaedra Thomas, director of Red Hook Programs for the South Brooklyn Local Development Corp.

Additionally, the Brooklyn Bridge Park planners have long sought to incorporate Pier 6 into their plans so that Atlantic Avenue could become a grand gateway to the development.

The Port Authority owns Piers 7 through 12, while the city owns Pier 6 and leases it to the Port Authority. In 2008, control of the pier will revert to the city, and many believe it will be turned over to extend the park, currently planned for Piers 1-5.

HRA are also the consultants for the Brooklyn Bridge Park developers.

"We're fighting for our jobs," said Salvatore Lubrano, 33, who has worked on the waterfront for the past four years.

Carrying a sign that read, "On the Waterfront ... Still Fighting for our jobs 50 years later. If you take our jobs what will replace them?" Lubrano said he was among the many longshoremen who live in the area and walk to work.

While the various constituencies remained relatively quiet at the May 22 meeting, Catucci planted himself in the front row of the room and offered unsolicited critiques during an hour-long presentation by Alschuler.

While Catucci claims that 40 percent of workers at his company walk to work, Alschuler said that figure was closer to 6 percent and noted that the annual operating costs for Piers 6-12 exceed revenue by over \$13 million.

Enraged, Catucci stood up and declared the entire study a failure.

During the question period following Alschuler's presentation, a consultant from DCG Group Consulting answered that Catucci had hired his firm to conduct a supplemental study of the piers.

Alschuler said he welcomed the other team. "It can only help," he added.

The HRA study is examining residential, commercial, industrial, cultural and maritime uses for the piers. The study will investigate the economic viability of different ideas, the maximization of assets, market trends, costs and revenue to make the piers possible.

There will be opportunities for public comment at meetings held through July. The next public meeting is planned for June 17, at which time more specific alternatives will be made for the piers. The location is still undetermined. For more information, e-mail to piers6-12@hira-inc.com.

E-278...

Continued from page 1

firehouses respond to Staten Island runs, said Donald Ruland, the Staten Island trustee for the UFA.

While the population of Staten Island has almost doubled over the past 30 years, the number of firehouses has stayed the same, said Ruland, who called the practice of deploying Brooklyn fire units to Staten Island a "disgrace" and the real "hidden closings."

The last new firehouse opened in Staten Island in 1972. And a new, \$8.2 million ambulance and fire station slated to open this summer will not have funding to staff any firefighters, according to Councilman James Oddo, the council's minority leader, whose district includes Staten Island and portions of Bensonhurst.

"The proverbial dog has hit the fan in terms of fire services," said Oddo, noting that Staten Island has been under-served, and routinely calls on the help of engine companies just over the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge in Bay Ridge.

Following the car dealership visit, Golden headed over to Engine 278 where he greeted several firefighters and met with Agatha's school on 48th Street who had come to say goodbye to the firefighters.

While the firefighters have been deployed to other firehouses around Brooklyn, the Sunset Park firehouse will not be closing altogether since Battalion 40 will remain in the building, although staffing will mostly be limited to a single battalion chief and his driver.

Two other firehouses will remain partially open. Engine 209 in Bedford-Stuyvesant and Engine 261 in Long Island City. Ocean Island, Engine 212 in Greenpoint, Engine 204 in Cobble Hill and Engine 36 in East Harlem were closed amid heavy protests Sunday.

In a final plea to the mayor on Friday, Golden said the city should "ludicrous" and said his community will suffer.

BRIDGE PARTY...

Continued from page 1

in a celebratory tone, Bloomberg asked everyone to reflect on the other event of the week-end, Memorial Day.

"It's a wonderful day," Bloomberg began, in what was hoped to be a weekend of barbecues and celebrations. "That we should not forget that as we speak, there are young men and women from New York City, New York State, and across the country, who are overseas defending our freedom."

Felds began her speech with the introductory phrase, "No in Manhattan," but before she could continue, Markowitz interrupted with, "Don't remind us. Fields chuckled and continued unfazed, applauding the Brooklyn Bridge, which she described as the "impetus for the unification of all five boroughs."

Markowitz, not surprisingly, cheered the bridge in the context of Brooklyn.

"It represents the vibrancy and vitality of our city," he said. "There's just something special about that bridge."

"I think it's the stone," said Mike Mark, of Bay Ridge, one of 15 runners who, at 9 am, crossed the bridge into Brooklyn. "There's something very romantic and breathtaking about it," he said.

Jessie Kelly, president of the Brooklyn Historical Society, was one of about 100 people who walked across the bridge with Markowitz

and Schaner an hour later.

"When you walk across the bridge, you can't help thinking of the engineering accomplishment that it was," said "It's big, beautiful, and it's the result of hard work—and all of that represents Brooklyn."

Joining the walkers were the Statue of Liberty (or at least a woman dressed as the icon) and Sandy Seagull, mascot of Markowitz's beloved Brooklyn Cyclones minor league baseball team.

Upon reaching Cadman Plaza, the crowd of walkers let out a whoop, and after a few more celebratory words by Markowitz, divided into one of six red tie-dye bands.

Don't remind us. Fields chuckled and continued unfazed, applauding the Brooklyn Bridge, which she described as the "impetus for the unification of all five boroughs."

Markowitz, not surprisingly, cheered the bridge in the context of Brooklyn. "It represents the vibrancy and vitality of our city," he said. "There's just something special about that bridge."

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Wanted / Brooklyn

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Wanted / Brooklyn

Park Pk So., Ditmas Pk, Midwood

Selling your home? Save commission. Contact Stubbins, who works for the Jewish Board of Family and Children Services. Organizers estimated around 1,000 attendees at the evening's peak, and later in the evening, as Johnny Maestro and The Brooklyn Bridge played their early '60s hits on the main stage, Markowitz opened up the entire VIP area to all attendees, serving up free food and T-shirts.

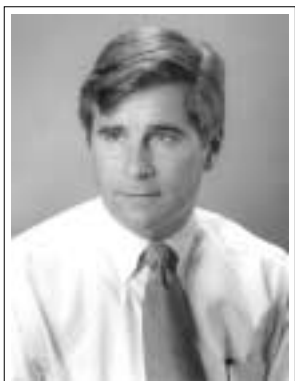
For those who were kept away from this year's party by the rain, Markowitz said the party would be returning to the site in five years to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the bridge.

In the interim years, the party will move to various locations throughout the borough. While nothing is official, Borough Hall sources cited Coney Island as a potential location for next year's festivities.

Gazing out at the Brooklyn Bridge as the sun went down, Markowitz could barely contain his enthusiasm. "Look at the bridge, it's graceful and strong," he said proudly.

Markowitz to the bridge's massive steel counterpart to the north the Manhattan Bridge.

Markowitz noted, "That's their bridge. This is our bridge."



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INSIDE

MUSIC

PAGE GO 2

R&B fest hosts Jimmy Cliff and more

SINGLES

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Lesbians fall in love with Park Slope

BROOKLYN EVENTS CALENDAR: GO 2

The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

718 834-9350 • June 2, 2003

Sexy scandals

'Pulp Art' offers windows into vintage American fears & fashions

By Lisa J. Curtis
The Brooklyn Papers

Timing is everything and the timing could not be better for the opening of the Brooklyn Museum of Art's latest show, "Pulp Art: Vamps, Villains and Victims from the Robert Lesser Collection." Designer Donna Karan's fall collection is infused with it, cosmetics counters are toting it and even vaudeville theaters are staging it. It is New York City's current infatuation with all things vintage, from knee-length frocks with sweetheart necklines, to red pouty lips to burlesque.

"Pulp Art" is a display of more than 100 rare paintings that were created to illustrate the covers of pulp fiction magazines in the 1920s, '30s and '40s — and they've got all of the above and then some. The exhibit is a riot of color, action, exposed garters and heaving décolletage.

In short, "Pulp Art" is a very sexy art history lesson.

Just as these violent, voluptuous covers reeked in customers despite crowded newsstands, the Brooklyn Museum's "Pulp Art" is an alluring diversion despite the borough's crowded slate of exhibitions and gallery shows.

The murder and mayhem begins as soon as you enter the exhibit. Kudos for its campy feel — itself an homage to the pulps — goes to designer Matthew Yokobosky. A nattily dressed mannequin lies face down while a nearby dame — with Veronica Lake blonde locks — turns her head away in distress. An unfeeling gust of air blows open her coat, conveniently exposing her retro lingerie.

The predecessors of the much tanner covers of the Nancy Drew mysteries I devoured as a girl, these pulp fiction covers depict damsels in quite serious distress and varieties of undress. (Nancy would never!) A portion of the exhibition is devoted to paintings teeming with aliens and spacecraft from science-fiction pulps while other areas feature flying acts dueling in the clouds. Still other walls are filled with illustrations of adventure stories in exotic locales or Westerns.

With this show, the Museum proves that sex and violence still sell: "Pulp Art" is a fascinating way to spend an afternoon.

While on the surface many of the cover subjects are patently, ridiculously offensive — depicting women in bondage, who have been assaulted or are about to be, portraying Asians as villains, and glorifying violence, the exhibit is a collection of historical, cultural artifacts that demonstrate a pervasive, fearful American mindset in those tumultuous decades that began with Prohibition, evolved into the Depression, are bookended by world wars and witnessed both tremendous scientific advancements and shameful Japanese internment camps. They are a manifestation of the fears of Americans grappling with new roles for women, immigrants and science.

H.W. Scott's "Japs Invade California" depicting white women marching into a concentration camp guarded by Asians while San Francisco burns in the background, was created for a "Click" magazine cover in February 1941, an eerie premonition of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and the internment of Japanese-Americans.

Curated by Anne Pasternak, "Pulp Art" fosters an appreciation for these artists, whose vibrant canvases, brimming with action and novel perspectives, were often rendered considerably duller and flatter when reproduced on the cheap "pulp" paper used to print the magazines. In many cases, the cover is displayed with the painting, most of which generally have densely, lively compositions, dramatic perspectives and vibrant, contrasting colors.



Burn, baby burn: Rafael de Soto's "Softly Creep and Softly Kill" ("Detective Tales," August 1947) is on display now as part of "Pulp Art: Vamps, Villains and Victims from the Robert Lesser Collection" at the Brooklyn Museum.

Brooklyn's own pulp painter, Walter Baumböcher (1904-1987), became known as "King of the Pulps" after attending Pratt Institute, according to Robert Lesser's book "Pulp Art." There is a variety of Baumböcher's work, including the powerful "Strong as Gortius" for "Adventure" magazine's April 1940 issue. He paints the pilot upside down, diagonally falling across his sky-blue canvas. The pilot's mouth is open in a silent scream, while his jaunty yellow scarf ripples away. Here, Baumböcher's unusual perspective literally turns portraiture on its head. Stunning.

Baumböcher's "Race Williams," "The Bode of the Dead" ("Dime Detective," January 1937) features a woman who is definitely in control of the situation. Here, a sweet, bespectacled grumpy sews closed the lips of her half-naked male captive while her two bulky sons help restrain him.

The curator points out the similarities between the victim's pose and that of Jesus on Mary's lap in Michelangelo's "Pieta" sculpture, but I think the focal point here is the yam punched through his lips.

Far more representative of the characterization of women on pulp covers is H.J. Ward's "Gunsmoke Gulch" ("Spicy West-

ern Stories," April 1938). In Ward's Western tableau, a blonde in a tattered, red dress writhes against her captor while her would-be savior remains helplessly bound and gagged in the foreground. The fear in her wide eyes is barely noticeable beyond her heaving bosom.

There are paintings by Frank R. Paul, "the father of science-fiction imagery" including "Golden City on Titan" ("Amazing Stories," November 1941). This watercolor shows futuristic buildings yawning high into the sky where Saturn looms large. Robot-like figures populate this planet, where the skyscrapers resemble the sets for Cloud City in "Empire Strikes Back."

Some of the pulp covers are outright hilarious, like Rafael de Soto's "Murder Nightmare" ("Dime Mystery Magazine," September 1942) in which a Frankenstein-like creature, replete with not-yet-healed sutures, smashes a glass case to grab the conveniently labeled "human brain." A gun-toting nurse bursts into the lab in the nick of time.

The original paintings were created in accordance with the publishers' needs, so most measured 30-inches by 21-inches, with room left at the top of the painting for the title, author and price to be stripped in.

The dramatic compositions the painters created while under those restraints achieve their desired impact: the canvases make the viewer stop in their tracks.

The final rooms of the exhibition include artwork from the next generation of pulp artists. There are photographs by Helmut Newton (including a 1983 portrait of actress Catherine Deneuve), Cindy Sherman and Brooklyn-born artist Gregory Crewdson.

Pulp subjects continue to engender controversy today. Before HBO's portrayals of mobbed-up Italian-Americans in "The Sopranos" galvanized protests, "pulp" devoted to gangsters like "Gangster Stories" and "True Gang Life," often glorified criminals and were therefore regularly condemned by civic groups and seized from newsstands...

So ladies, put on your red lipstick and L-strap shoes — and fellas, don your shiny spats and fedora — and head on over to the Brooklyn Museum to see what the newly fashionable fuss over American pulp is all about.

ART

"Pulp Art: Vamps, Villains and Victims from the Robert Lesser Collection" is on view at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, 200 Eastern Parkway at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights through Aug. 31. The museum will be closed Aug. 4-10.

As part of the Museum's First Saturday program on June 7, guest curator Anne Pasternak will discuss "Pulp Art" at 7 pm. At 8 pm, Christina Ferwerder will discuss women in "Pulp Art." Beginning at 5 pm, admission to the Museum's First Saturday events is free. Wednesdays through Sundays, museum admission is \$6.35 students with I.D. and seniors. For more information, call (718) 638-5000 or log on to www.brooklynmuseum.org.

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ART

Title wave

Following on the heels of the Rotunda Gallery's "Water, Water" exhibit in Brooklyn Heights — which featured art work inspired by and implementing water, a group of artists have partnered with Riverkeeper, a watchdog group that protects the Hudson River, to create a one-day event in Clinton Hill that also celebrates this precious resource.

On May 31, "Emergence in Sea" will transform a 2,400-square-foot loft at 172 Classon Ave., between Park and Myrtle avenues, into an underwater environment with paintings, sculptures, video projections, ambient sounds, performances and interactive installations.

From 11 pm to 4 am, house DJs will start spinning and Carroll Gardens artist Sara Foldenauer will unveil her roof-free, foam-filled structure. Bathing suits are recommended.

"My recent inspiration [for the installation] came from being in San Francisco ... last year, and the first thing we did was go to the ocean," says Foldenauer, who credits Kelly McCormick for helping her to design the structure made of PVC piping, shrink-wrapped plastic and blue lights. "The waves were washing up complete foam that even looked like milk at times. Beautiful!"

But "Emergence in Sea" isn't just frolicking in the foam. The exhibit, featuring the work of 20 artists, will tackle water issues such as pollution, waste, consumption and privatization. "Emergence in Sea" begins as a gallery exhibition, from 6 pm to 9 pm (McCormick's vinyl on vinyl representation of a wave is pictured above), followed by performances from 9 pm to 11 pm.

The event is free until 9 pm. After 9 pm, admission is \$10 with partial proceeds to benefit Riverkeeper. For more information about the exhibition, log on to www.verge-works.com/emergenceinsea.

— Lisa J. Curtis



THEATER

Barge right in

Waterfront Museum returns to Red Hook with variety show

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

After a year of major preservation work in dry-dock, Red Hook's Waterfront Museum and Showboat Barge is back in Red Hook at a new location, 699 Columbia St.

With the return of the barge comes the seventh year of CIRCUSundays aboard the historic 1914 Lehigh Valley Railroad Barge #79. And according to Karen Gersch, artistic director and Ocean Mistress of Cerebrates, the shows are going to be better than ever.

Gersch, who, as an acrobat, juggler and clown is a former founding member of the Big Apple Circus, a current member of its Clown Care Unit, and the head of her own company, Acrobats, books the 40 or so acts that will appear at some time during the five circus Sundays this June. And Gersch has assembled an impressive roster of talent.

Chris McDaniel, whom Gersch calls "a look-alike Wild Bill Hickok," will demonstrate roping and bullwhipping artistry.

"He's an interactive artist," Gersch told GO Brooklyn. "A volunteer from the audience will get roped." Gersch wouldn't reveal whether a volunteer would have the opportunity to whip, or be whipped.

David Sharps, the showboat's captain, will demonstrate the art of juggling Chinese vases.

Donna Penney looks like a "Carmen Miranda on stilts," and her husband, Drew the Fool, does a "beautiful dance on a globe while playing the ukulele."

Indeed, the acts include clowns and clowning: Torkova the Magician, who was awarded the 2002 Magician of the Year award by the Society of Magicians; Dikki, who walks on a slack wire; Ron Hoffman and Julie Pasqual, who, as the Peppercorns, will perform acrobatic swing dancing; Brooklyn's own Baltic Street Band, performing differ-

See CIRCUS on page GO 4



Capt. Courageous: Waterfront Museum Barge Capt. David Sharps juggles Chinese vases, as part of CIRCUSundays.

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R&B revue

Atlanta's Donnie and the UK's Steel Pulse join BAM's R&B summer concert slate

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

For many Brooklynites, the first sign of summer is not weekends at the beach or installing the air conditioner, but the BAM Rhythm and Blues Festival at Metrotech, which this year begins on June 5 and runs every Thursday through Aug. 7. The 10-noonline concerts will feature both established talent and rising stars—in an eclectic mix of classic and neo-soul, funk, gospel, reggae and world fusion sounds.

The series begins with funk band Zapp, whose single hits include "More Bounce to the Ounce" and "Dance Floor." Other funk acts include Floetry (June 12), a duo featuring songstress Marsha Ambrosio and emcee/spoken-word artist Natalie Stewart; and Fred Wesley and the J.B.'s (July 3), the legendary supporting cast of musicians behind James Brown's R&B, soul, and funk hits during the 1960s.

Guitarist and singer-songwriter Corey Harris will perform his modern interpretation of Delta blues on June 26, and the Dirty Dozen Brass Band will demonstrate how it revitalized the brass band tradition with its blend of traditional marches, funk, R&B, hip-hop, gospel and rock on July 10.

On July 17, the Rhythm and Blues Festival presents a double bill: singer, songwriter and Atlanta icon, Donnie, and, opening for him, up-and-coming Downtown Brooklyn-based singer-songwriter Marsha



Not Donnie Osmond: Singer-songwriter Donnie will perform material from his new CD, "The Colored Street," at the BAM Rhythm & Blues Festival at Metrotech on July 17. The double bill will be shared with Downtown Brooklyn's own singer-songwriter Marsha Redbone (left).

Redbone.

In a telephone conversation from his home in Atlanta, Donnie told GO Brooklyn that his Metrotech performance will "be a first," as he's never performed in Brooklyn before.

Donnie said he'll be doing material from his newly released debut album "The Colored Street" (Universal), filled with socially conscious songs that speak to the African-American experience in America from the 19th century to the present.

Donnie says he's been influenced by gospel singers ("there'd be no Backstreet Boys or 'N Sync without them"), and artists like Donnie Hathaway, Stevie Wonder and Aretha Franklin, but his first and greatest in-

spiration was Michael Jackson.

"He was larger than when I was a little kid," says the 28-year-old singer.

Donnie doesn't believe, however, that black performers should only be influenced by other black performers.

"I love The Mamas & the Papas," he declares enthusiastically.

But most of all Donnie considers himself a child of the '60s.

"I'm a hip-hopper. I feel at one with my generation," he says. "I use the slang and rhythms of hip-hop. It's opened a lot of doors for people who want to talk about more than partying and getting jiggy."

If Donnie's earliest influences include gospel, that's only one indica-

tion of the seminal importance of groups like **Mighty Clouds of Joy** (July 24). Led by singer Joe Ligon, the group began recording in 1960, pioneering a distinctly funky sound and fusing traditional southern gospel music with more secular music (they were the first gospel band to add brass, drums and keyboards to the standard quartet accompaniment of solo guitar) and even scoring a major disco hit, "Mighty High."

The sounds of the Caribbean are well represented at the festival, too. **Steel Pulse**, which was founded by British-Jamaican musicians, and became one of the most successful reggae bands of the late '70s and early '80s, will appear on July 3. The band

MUSIC

BAM Rhythm & Blues Festival at Metrotech concerts will take place on Thursdays from noon to 2 p.m. from June 5 through Aug. 7. All concerts are free and open to the public. The concerts will be staged at the Metrotech Commons, at the corner of Flatbush and Myrtle avenues. For more information, call BAM Ticket Services at (718) 636-4100 or visit www.bam.org.

blends traditional reggae, Euro-pop and messages of social justice in albums such as "Handsworth Revolution" (Mango, 1990), "Tribute to Martyrs" (Mango, 1990) and "Babylon The Bandit" (Elektra/Asylum, 1986).

Two members of Steel Pulse have close ties to Brooklyn—keyboardist Sidney Mills has a recording studio on Church Avenue near Uxley Avenue, and guitarist Clifford Pusey lives in Flatbush.

Mills, who has been with the group for the past 15 years, told GO Brooklyn that the band will be performing songs from previous albums, as well as songs—such as "Africa Unite"—from an album to be released later this year.

"In the beginning, the band sang about living conditions of working class black people in Birmingham, England," said Mills. "But when the band became more popular, we could see outside Birmingham to world issues. We were a focal point for African liberation and the class that doesn't get the chance to voice its opinions."

The legendary **Jimmy Cliff**, who helped define modern Jamaican music through singles such as "Wonderful World Beautiful People" ("Wild Wild World," and, of course, "The Harder They Come," will close the festival on Aug. 7.

There's even something for people who like surprises. Keep a lookout for the as-yet-unnamed guest artist of June 19.

Whether your musical roots go back to the '60s or you blossom in the '90s, whether you're into the blues or get inspiration from gospel, you'll find lots of cool music for the hot summer at Metrotech.

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PASTOR Roger McPhail, COORDINATOR

WHERE TO GO
compiled by Susan Rosenthal

THURS, MAY 29

BASIC JUDAISM: Congregation First Anshin offers a talk "How the Talmud Thinks," 6:30 p.m. 117 Remsen St. (718) 596-4840. Free.

HOMERUN LECTURE: Long Island University offers a first-time homebuyer talk, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. 1 University Place. (866) 241-5122. Free.

BARNES AND NOBLE: Open mic poetry night, 8 p.m. 267 Seventh Ave. (718) 832-6344. Free.

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: Reggae plays Brazilian music, 8:30 p.m. 10 North 5th St. (718) 782-5188.

MILITARY CINEMA NIGHT: Monthly focus on focusing on history through film. Featured film is "All Quiet on the Western Front," 7 p.m. Fort Hamilton, 101 Street and Fort Hamilton Parkway. Call for reservations. (718) 630-4349. Free.

SPRING FEVER: Brooklyn Lyceum presents Random Violence at 8:30 p.m. Rema Diakara at 9 p.m. 212 227 Fourth Ave. (347) 853-6298.

BARGENMUSIC: chamber music program featuring works by Brahms, 5:35-7:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

LOW DAY: Ben Baruch plays music. No cover. 10 p.m. 81 West 12th St. (718) 222-110W.

BARNES BAR: Trilogy performs world music. 9 p.m. No cover. 276 Ninth St. (718) 965-9177.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: "Labapalooza" new puppet theater. Program B. 8 p.m. See Sat.

BLACK BOX SERIES: Gallery Players. 8 p.m. See Sat.

FRI, MAY 30

BREAKFAST WITH PACC: Pratt Area Community Council talk, "Neighborhood-Based Small Business Development: Promoting a Thriving Local Economy," 8:30 a.m. The Ciba Mansion, 218 West 17th St. (718) 522-3233. Free.

PSYCHARTIC FILM GROUP: Maimonides Medical Group offers the film "Goodfella." Talk on mob family values follows. 7:30 p.m. See Sat.

LOWES: 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Schreiber Auditorium, 4801 10th Ave. (718) 283-7173. Free.

SPRING FEVER: Brooklyn Lyceum presents Random Violence at 8:30 p.m. Traci Lynn Smith at 9 p.m. and "High Life and The World of Inmate Objects" at 10 p.m. 212 227 Fourth Ave. (347) 853-6298.

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: Amnesty International presents the "Domestic Violence," 7 p.m. Call for ticket info. Also, Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m. 10 North 5th St. (718) 782-5188.

WHITE COLLAR SHOW: Gleason's Gym hosts a boxing event. \$20 registration fee. \$15 spectators. 55 members. 7:30 p.m. 83 Fulton St. (718) 797-2872.

BARGENMUSIC: all Bach, 5:35-7:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

FAMILY FILMS: YAL Players, an ensemble of performers with developmental disabilities, perform at Tribeca Family Festival. 7:30 p.m. Berkeley Carroll School, Park Slope. Call for ticket info. (212) 273-6399.

GOOD COFFEEHOUSE: CD release party for Brooklyn Women's Chorus. 5:10-8 p.m. 53 Prospect Park West. (718) 783-2298.

MUSIC AT GREEN-WOOD: Musicians David Grubbs and Loren Mazzacane Connors explore the natural neobeat of the Green-Wood Chapel. 8 p.m. 8th Fifth Avenue at 25th Street. (718) 857-4816.

TWO BOOTS: Yes Virginia! "Creepin' in the Funky City." No cover. 10 p.m. to midnight. 514 Second St. (718) 499-3253.

BARNES BAR: The Heales play. No cover. 376 Ninth St. Call for ticket info. (212) 273-6399.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: presents "Labapalooza" festival of new puppet theater. Program A. 8 p.m. See Sat.

BLACK BOX SERIES: Gallery Players. 8 p.m. See Sat.

SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE: Brooklyn Arts Exchange offers theater and dance students scholarship opportunities for the 2003/2004 term. Call for info. 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 832-0018.

SAT, MAY 31

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

AMISH TRIP: Brooklyn Botanic Garden takes a trip to Lancaster County, Penn. Day includes a behind-the-scenes tour of a family-style dining hall, tour of the Amish farm, and a tour of local jams and more. \$87, \$79 members. 8:30 am to 7 p.m. Reservations necessary. 1000 Washington Ave. (718) 623-7220.

BIKE RIDE: Bay Ridge Community Federation ride along the Narrows. 9 a.m. Meet at 9200 Fourth Ave. (718) 745-6383. Free.

BIKING TOUR: Salt Marsh Nature Center hosts a lake ride to Canarsie Pier and back (round-trip is 10 miles). 11 a.m. Meet at 3302 Ave. U. (718) 421-2021.

PEDAL BOATING: on the lake at Prospect Park. \$10 per hour. (718) 282-7789.

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS TOUR: Historic Dutch Brooklyn tour of area. \$20. 1 p.m. Meet at front of Brooklyn Borough Hall, Fulton Street, East of Court Street. (212) 485-6150.

SMITH STREET TOUR: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment takes a tour, "El Barrio to Le Bourgeois." Learn why Smith Street has more restaurants than any other single street in all of the five boroughs. Sample food as you walk. \$11. 99 members, \$8 seniors and students. 2 p.m. Meet at Carroll Station of the F/G train. (718) 787-8550. See Sat.

LIVE BIRDS: Imagination Play-ground hosts a program "Live Birds of Prey." Feathered guests include a peregrine falcon, a screech owl, and short-eared owls and a hawk. 3 to 4 p.m. 190 Parkside. Call for ticket info. (718) 965-8963. Free.

TWILIGHT TOUR: Big Onion hosts a walking tour of the

Last chance

Check out "Space Invaders," a group show of sculptors and painters at the Fish Tank Gallery (93 North 5th St. between Berry Street and Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg) before it closes June 9.

Curated by Peter Drake, "Space Invaders" features a variety of works by Amy Bennett, MaDora Frey, Bryan LeBeau, Jennifer Present, Jean-Pierre Rey, Meg Stone, Helen Verhoeven and Ann Pirsch.

Hirsch's cast stone re-interpretation of gothic gargoyles, "Watchers," is pictured on more information, call (718) 367-4320 or visit fish-tankgallery.net.

—Lisa J. Curtis

PERFORMANCES

DANCE: Straight to the Hell: copier presents excerpts from "Avoidances." 2 p.m. McCarran Park, Union Avenue between Rivington and Driggs. (718) 624-6178. Free.

OPERA: Regina Opera performs "La Traviata." 8 p.m. Regna Hall, 12th Avenue and 55th Street. (718) 232-3555.

SPRING FEVER: Brooklyn Lyceum presents "From Wind to Foot," a program of movement, silence and silence. 12 p.m. 227 Fourth Ave. (718) 623-7220.

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: Rene Iquero plays Cuban guitar music. 5:30 p.m. 10 North 5th St. (718) 782-5188.

BARGENMUSIC: chamber music program of Schubert, Brahms and others. 5:35-7:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

YOUNG DANCERS: Young Dancers in Repertory and Dance Consort present "Humor in Dance, and Other Delights." 5:15, 8 seniors and children 12 and under. 8 p.m. Brooklyn Music School, 126 St. Felix St. (718) 567-9620.

OPEN THEATRE: One Arm Red presents "Master You-Ho." 7 p.m. "All is Full of Love" dance with Ben Baruch. 8 p.m. "Hail of One," a multimedia play about desire. 8 p.m. Call for ticket info. 45 Main St. (718) 797-0046.

SOUTH OXFORD SPACE: Roots and Branches presents "Things I Have Believed In," a one-woman show by Trisha Arin. 5:15 p.m. 138 South Oxford Street. (718) 624-2083.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: "Labapalooza" festival of new puppet theater. Program B includes "Hopkins Day." Part 1. 5:20-8 p.m. 36 West 12th St. (718) 858-2424.

BLACK BOX SERIES: Annual event by the Gallery Players. Box 1 features "Holy Child," a party about three brothers reuniting to confront their older brother. 5:15, 11:12 children under 12 and seniors. 8 p.m. 199 14th St. (718) 595-0347.

OVER UP JAZZ: Keyon Harold Quintet plays. \$15 plus 55 min. minimum. Sets at 9 and 11 pm and 12:30 am. 351 Flatbush Ave. (718) 398-5413.

HALCYON CAFE: Resident DJs Scottie & Dineke & Pete host funk with Paul Casey. No cover. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. 227 22nd St. (718) 265-WOLLY.

COMEDY: Brooklyn Brew-Ha evening of fun. \$5 plus two drink minimum. 9:30 p.m. 273 5th Ave. (718) 624-8878.

PETE'S CANDY STORE: "Last Town Chorus." 10 p.m. 709 Lorimer St. (718) 330-3770. Free.

BARNES BAR: Banning Eye performs. No cover. 376 Ninth St. Call for ticket info. (718) 965-9177.

CHILDREN

CARNIVAL: Annual event hosted by PS 29. Noon to 4 p.m. 425 Henry St. (718) 330-9277.

PUPPETWORKS: presents "Cinderella." \$6, \$7 adults. 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. 338 South Ave. (718) 624-2083.

OTHER

PIER SHOW 11: Brooklyn Working Artists Council presents its annual art fair. 12:30 to 6 p.m. Also, open studio tour of the gallery. 12:30 to 6 p.m. Cobble Hill and Boerum Hill. Call for ticket info. 699 10th Street. (718) 596-2507.

SIDEWALK SALE: Sunset Park Community Center. Sale of new and used items. 10 am to 3 p.m. 524 10th Avenue. (718) 439-6944.

SPRING FLING: PS 154. Games, prizes, crafts. Free market. 10 am to 4 p.m. (718) 768-7681.

Flea Market: Carroll Park. 10 am to 5 p.m. Court and Carroll streets.

SPRING FEVER: Brooklyn Lyceum presents a drama, "Random Violence." 8 p.m. works in progress "Groundworks" with Zachary Hargis at 3 p.m. Sandwich and Cinema at 5 p.m. 2 p.m. Traci Lynn Smith at 7 p.m. "All is Full of Love" dance at 8 p.m. a comedy. Blue. at 9:30 p.m. 212 227 Fourth Ave. (347) 853-6298.

BENEFIT BONA-A-TONIC: Fund-raiser to benefit cancer patient Alexandra Capellini. 5:15, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Mark Lanes 88th Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues. (718) 748-3024.

LECTURE: Brooklyn Public Library. Central branch, presents a slide show with author Charles Demuth. He discusses his book "Coney Island: Lost and Found." 2 p.m. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 232-3100.

ART GALLERY: Fun-Gun invites artists to enjoy good art and a mingling event. 5:10 to 8 p.m. Call for location. (717) 292-GURU.

ART ENVIRONMENT: "Emergence in 3D" features an evening of performances. 7 p.m. Art inspired by water. Gallery exhibit from 6 to 9 p.m. Free. Party and performances from 9 p.m. to 4 a.m. 510 (Bling) Flatbush Ave. (718) 797-8872.

MATING SEASON: Salt Marsh Nature Center presents a mating ritual of horseshoe crabs. 8 p.m. Meet at end of Gertrude Avenue, near the beach entrance after Lois

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Day trippers

Brooklyn has its Day on June 5

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

Brooklyn Day, which will be celebrated this year on Thursday, June 5, has always been a holiday primarily for children.

As far back as 1897, a Brooklyn Eagle article about John Rodgers Morris, an officer of the Sunday School Union, notes that the holiday, then alternately called Anniversary Day and Children's Day, was already more than 65 years old. It was first celebrated with a local parade in 1829, when three or four Sunday schools participated, and the "anniversary exercises" were held in the Sands Street Methodist Episcopal Church, later demolished to make way for the Brooklyn Bridge.

According to Brooklyn historian John Marbeck, Anniversary Day began as a combined political and religious holiday organized by the powerful Protestant Sunday School Union to celebrate its founding. It was shortly after the Civil War that a bill was drafted declaring Anniversary Day an official school holiday in Brooklyn, but it was not passed.

As Brooklyn became more religiously diverse, the holiday, the first Thursday of June, remained on the books but was named Brooklyn Day.

In keeping with the holiday's child-centered nature, several Brooklyn institutions have for the past eight years come together under the leadership of the Rotunda Gallery in Brooklyn Heights to create KidDay—an

all-day festival celebrating the arts, history and culture of Brooklyn.

Mendith McNeal, director of education and associate director of the Rotunda Gallery, remembers how the coalition was formed: "We wanted to celebrate the opening of our KidDay exhibition but after we moved from the War Memorial (in Cadman Plaza Park), our new location (on Clinton Street at Pierpoint Street) was not big enough. We needed to do it another way."

"It occurred to us that new sites would do it," she said. "So I approached other people in the neighborhood and asked them to celebrate."

Three "other people" were the Brooklyn Heights Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library, the New York Transit Museum (on Clinton Street at Pierpoint Street) and the Rotunda Gallery, which kids can create their own miniature notebook cityscapes ("Tiny Town") and paint Georgia O'Keefe-inspired watercolor gardens ("Flower Power"), this year's festival will include a display of train and bus parts ("Transit Treasures") collected by the Transit Museum, and a stroll with an

educator portraying Brooklyn Bridge matriarch Emily Roebling, along the Heights promenade as she recalls the building of the bridge. There will also be visits by Oyfink the Clown and Marco the Magician, as well as arts and crafts, face painting, videos and free books at the library.

The day will end with a juice-and-cookie reception and viewing of the KidDay exhibition at the Rotunda Gallery. McNeal said that for the first time, there will be a "crown

EVENT

For more information about KidArt and KidsDay on June 5, contact Brett Ruffin at bruffin@brooklyn.org or (718) 875-4047, ext. 11. For reservations, call (718) 875-4047, ext. 16. The Rotunda Gallery is located at 33 Clinton St. at Pierpoint Street in Brooklyn Heights.

The Brooklyn Heights Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library is located at 280 Cadman Plaza West at the corner of Clinton Street. For more information, call (718) 623-7102.

The New York Transit Museum and the Brooklyn Historical Society are both temporarily closed for renovations. The transit exhibit will be on display at a tent in Columbus Park, near Borough Hall and the Brooklyn Supreme Court, on Cadman Plaza East in Downtown Brooklyn. For information, call (718) 694-5139.

The walk with Emily Roebling meets in front of the soon-to-be-reopened Brooklyn Historical Society at 128 Pierpoint St. at the corner of Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights. For reservations, (718) 222-4111, ext. 38.

Doors open at the Up Over Jazz Cafe (351 Flatbush Ave. in Park Slope) at 5 pm on June 5. Sets are at 7 pm and 9 pm. Cover charge is \$15 (first set) and \$10 (second set) plus minimum. Special discounts for students and United Federation of Teachers members. There will be a free buffet for the first set. For more information, call (718) 396-5413.

But don't think the kids are going to be having all the fun. Bob Myers, owner of Up Over Jazz Cafe in Park Slope, is planning a pre-Brooklyn Day party on June 4.

The event features The New Cookers—a six-piece jazz band named after Freddie Hubbard's 1965 album, "Night of the Cookers"—and guest trumpeter Keyson Harold recreating the tunes that made up the Brooklyn jazz sound during the '50s and '60s.

At that time, Brooklyn had a vibrant nightlife, with popular clubs such as the Club La Mar-



This artwork by a PS 217 student is part of the KidArt exhibit at the Rotunda Gallery.

chael, The Continental, The Blue Coronet, Studio O and The East.

Young musicians like Hubbard, Wynton Kelly, Cedar Walton, Billy Higgins, Gary Bartz and Lee Morgan came to the borough to hear their idols — Max Roach, Thelonious Monk, Charlie Parker and Miles Davis — jam.

"It's funny how history repeats itself," says Myers. "Now, after skipping a generation, new jazz players are coming back to Brooklyn — again because of the rents, and also in memory of their idols."

The New Cookers will perform "Bolivia," "Pensativa," "Ujesta" and other songs from The Brooklyn Jazz Songbook, which Myers is currently compiling.

Whatever you're doing on Brooklyn Day — have a great holiday, if you're fortunate enough to have the day off, of course.

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SAT 6/28 7:30PM

Avenue, (718) 421-2021. Free.

FILM SERIES: Corey Island Museum hosts a series of films. Tonight: "Gibtown," a story that explores the off-season retirement town of carnival and sideshow performers in Gloucester, Fla. \$5, 8:30 pm, 1208 Surf Ave. (718) 372-5159. Street and 18th Avenue. (718) 256-7173. Free.

LIBERTY WEEKEND: Friends of Historic New Utrecht host historic site tours, civil war encampment, concerts and more. Call for schedule. 84th Street and 18th Avenue. (718) 256-7173. Free.

SUN, JUNE 1

National Cancer Society Day

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

AUDITION CENTER: Early morning program "Home Sweet Home." First out how to make feather their nests. 8 to 10 am. Prospect Park. Enter at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 287-3400. ext. 226. Free.

LOST AND FOUND: Brooklyn Public Library Foundation hosts a tour: "Coney Island: Lost and Found." Visit landmarks such as Nathan's hotdog stand, the Parachute Jump and Wonder Wheel. 10:30 am. Meet in front of Kew-Forest Park, two blocks west of Stillwell Avenue subway terminal. (718) 232-7980.

CONY ISLAND TOUR: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment hosts a tour of the site and remains of numerous movie theaters and variety halls in Coney Island. Theater history Center Deal Valley leads tour. \$11.50 members, \$8 seniors and students. 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Meet in front of Theater on Surf Avenue. (718) 788-8500. ext. 226.

GREEN WOOD CEMETERY: Tour and talk about Green-Wood's historical, architectural, artistic, horticultural and theatrical appeal. \$6, 1 pm. Meet inside main entrance at Fifth Avenue and 25th Street. (718) 469-5277.

PERFORMANCES

CIRCUS SUNDAYS: Waterfront Museum and Showboat Barge begins its seventh season of family entertainment aboard the 1914 Lighter Valley Railroad Barge. Show offers unusual acts, comedy and more. \$5, 1 and 4:30 pm. Columbia Street Marine Terminal, 699 Columbia St. (718) 624-4719.

SINGLES EVENT: hosted by Bay Ridge Singles Club. \$3, 2 pm. Our Lady of Angels Church, 7320 Fourth Ave. (718) 836-7200.

LIST YOUR EVENT...

To list your event in **Where to GO**, please give us as much notice as possible. Send your listing by mail: GO Brooklyn, The Brooklyn Papers, 26 Court St., Ste. 506, Brooklyn, NY 11242; or by fax: (718) 834-9278. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings over the phone.

SPRING FEST: Brooklyn Botanic Garden presents Shakespeare's Rose Poetry, presented by the American Globe Theater. 2 pm. Also, Brooklyn Chamber Players at 3 pm. Finally, Quaker Banquet. All performances by Schubert and Midtown. 4:30 pm. Tours of the Garden and Rose Garden and its 5,000 roses at noon. \$5, 1000 Washington Ave. (718) 622-1333.

MUSIC: Kingsborough Stage presents "The 2001 Oriental Blvd." (718) 368-5096. Free.

CONCERT: Brooklyn Community Chorus performs its first spring concert. Music by Randall Thompson. Cesar Franck, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Duke Ellington and others. \$5, 3 pm. Old First Reformed Church, 17th Avenue and Carroll Street. (718) 799-6060. ext. 245.

BARGE MUSIC: chamber music program of Schubert, Bruch, Sarasate and others. \$35, 4 pm. Bensonhurst Park, Bay Parkway and Coney Avenue. (718) 284-5140.

WORDSMITH SERIES: Halcyon Cafe hosts a fiction reading series. 1 pm, 227 Smith St. (718) 264-5400. Free.

CELEBRATE LIFE: Brooklyn VA Hospital honors cancer survivors with a day of celebratory activities. 1 pm, 800 Polk Place. (914) 747-9272. Free.

LIBRARY EVENT: Slide show, video and discussion of Jerry Dantico's photographs "The Filles de la Mer." 2 pm. Brooklyn Public Library, Central branch, Grand Army Plaza. (718) 228-2100. Free.

MOVIES AT THE MUSEUM: Brooklyn Museum of Art presents "Seen Through These Eyes," a documentary about artist survivors. Included in museum admission of \$6, free for members. 3 pm, 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-5000.

SUNDAYS AT SUNNY: Reading series. \$3, 3 pm, 253 Conover Ave. (718) 625-8211.

ODD SUNDAY: Micro Museum offers guided tours of interactive sculptures and media installations by William and Kathleen Latta. \$5, 3 to 6 pm, 123 Smith St. (718) 797-3116.

OCULARS FILM: Cinema Williamsburg Style presents a Robert Beck Memorial Cinema Film Anniversary. \$6, 8:30 pm, 70 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.

MON, JUNE 2

OPERA: Regina Opera Company performs at Brooklyn Public Library, Brooklyn Heights branch. 6:30 pm, 280 Cadman Plaza West. (718) 616-165. Free.

GOODNESS NIGHT: Fennimore presents a series of evening events which nurture the goddess within us all. 6:30 pm, 19 Atlantic Ave. Call for info. (718) 787-8797.

MEETING: of Economic and Waterfront Development Committee of Community Board 6, 6:30 pm. Long Island College Hospital, 397 Hix St. (718) 643-3027.

OPERA: The Opera Company of Brooklyn presents Puccini's La Rondine. \$25, 515 Brooklyn residents, \$5 students, 7:30 pm. First Unitarian Church, 515 Monroe Place. (212) 507-5283.

FORUM: American Heritage Foundation presents former NYC Public Advocate Mark Green. 7:30 pm, Bay Ridge Plaza 157, 345 78th St. (718) 836-7902. Free.

LECTURE: Congregation B'nai Abraham concludes its "Ethics of Our Fathers" series with "Love Versus Hatred." 8 pm, 117 Bensonhurst Park, Bay Parkway and Coney Avenue. (718) 802-1827. Free.

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: Evening of burlesque. 9:30 pm. No cover. Also, Daniel J. and The Letdowns perform progressive rock. \$5, 8 pm, 70 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.

TUES, JUNE 3

PROJECT DELIVERY: Maimonides Medical Center offers a day of support and information on how to raise a child with special health needs. Presentations by parents, doctors and health workers. 8 am, Scheraga Hall, 4802 10th Ave. (718) 283-4600.

AGING PARENT TALK: Heights and Hill Community Council offers a series of workshops. Today: "Communicating Effectively with Healthcare Professionals." 6:30 to 8:30 pm, 160 Montague St., third floor. Registration required. (718) 516-8789. Free.

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: Music on North Sixth features contemporary experimental compositions. \$8, 8 pm, 70 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.

SPRING FEVER: Brooklyn Lyceum presents "A Full of Love" at 9:30 pm, \$12 per person, plus \$27 Fourth Ave. (347) 683-7698.

WEDS, JUNE 4

FILM: St. Francis College presents "Bringing Down the House." Noon and 5 pm, 180 Remsen St. (718) 489-5272. Free.

MEETING: Community Board 6, Youth Services and Education Committees meet. 5:30 pm. AUNT SARAH'S, 247 Fifth Ave. (718) 643-3027.

LIBRARY EVENT: Brooklyn Public Library, Central branch, presents photographer Stanley Greenberg's "Waterworks: A Photographic Journey Through New York's Hidden Water System." 6 pm, Grand Army Plaza. (718) 232-2100. Free.

SPRING FEVER: Brooklyn Lyceum presents works in progress by "Blue" at 8 pm, "Blue" at 9:30 pm. \$12 per person, plus \$27 Fourth Ave. (347) 683-7698.

COMMUNITY MEETING: Neighborhood Improvement Association presents Police Officer Carl Calderone in a talk, "Terrorism Awareness for Citizens." 7 pm, Regina Hall, 126th Avenue and 65th Street. (718) 236-5066. Free.

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: Little Guy Book Lecture Series #20, a series of readings, discussions, contests and slide projections. Tonight: "How to Negotiate All Kinds of Deals and Contracts." \$8, 8 pm. Also, a series of blues jams music. 8:30 pm. No cover. 70 North Sixth St. (718) 398-5413.

JAZZ: New Cookers perform. \$15 plus minimum per set. 7 and 9 pm. Up Over Jazz Cafe, 351 Flatbush Ave., second floor. (718) 398-5413.

LOW BAR: Spontaneous night featuring jazz, country and funk music. Also, Mike Webb and DJ Delmar. Tickets \$5, 9 pm to midnight. 81 Washington St. (718) 222-1100.

BARBERS BAR: Callist Okyung presents "The Red Line." 9 pm, 117 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.

THURS, JUNE 5

Brooklyn Day
Kids' Day: Day-long celebration at several venues: Rotunda Gallery, Brooklyn Historical Society, Brooklyn Heights branch of Brooklyn Public Library and New York Transit Museum. Exhibit of artworks created by children participating in the gallery's art-making workshop at 11 am. Transit Museum at 10 am. Marco the Magician at 1 pm; more at 3 pm. "The Prince of Rock & Roll" at 9:30 pm, \$12 per person, plus \$27 Fourth Ave. (347) 683-7698.

ELDERLADIES: Greater East Side Synagogue presents "Continued on next page..."

20:30:4

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Where the girls are

Park Slope sanctuaries for lesbians looking for love

By Beverley Wang
for The Brooklyn Papers

Ahh, spring — buds blossom, bees buzz, grass grows green and sweet showers dance earthward. Amid all this signaling of Mother Na-

ture's powerful abilities, a single lesbian in need of a lover may turn her mind to thoughts of romance, love and perhaps lust. But where to begin? Brooklynites, and perhaps all New Yorkers, might automatically answer: Park Slope. The

streets between Fifth and Seventh avenues have a lot to offer for dinner, drinks, entertainment and even the morning after.

Meet for drinks

There's a new five-letter word for love: P-A-T-I-O. Gin-

netted with someone that you'd like to get to know better.

Under disco balls suspended from a tin ceiling, a bevy of lesbians and their friends crowd the bar at Ginger's, which is elbow-to-elbow most weeknights and weekends. In the rear post the jukebox, couches crammed with pretty young things in jeans and short haircuts ring the pool table. Mondays feature live jazz.

"It's a nearby, convenient place to go with friends," said Kate Skeele, 22, a recent college graduate from Massachusetts who said she moved to Park Slope because it's "more of a neighborhood than Williamsburg and cheaper than Manhattan."

"I think it's a dive, but I love a good dive," Skeele said of Ginger's.

For a more upscale environment, head to Excelcior. It's a gay bar, and the only one of its kind in Park Slope, according to bartender Cliff Turner (although there is THAT Bar in nearby Carroll Gardens), but don't be surprised to see members of the Flammingoes, reigning champions of the Prospect Park Women's Softball League, whooping it up there after a game.

"Excelcior is for men, but it's the nicest bar in the neighborhood for gay people by far," said Flamingo Jennifer Box, a Park Slope resident since 1994.

Eating out

For Manhattanite Alex Fisher, who is bisexual, Park Slope is one of the few New York neighborhoods where she feels able to "go into a restaurant [with my ex-girlfriend] as a couple and be acknowledged as a couple and not as friends." Places like The Rising Cafe, 186 Fifth Ave. at Sackett Street, with gay staff and



Spice of life: Ginger's Pub, on Fifth Avenue at Fifth Street, offers a spacious backyard, pool table and live jazz on Mondays for ladies looking for a casual, fun night out.

gay music acts, have probably helped Park Slope earn this reputation as a lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender-welcoming neighborhood.

At the Rising, the December addition of Sweet Mama's chef Terrie Mangrum's Southern-

SINGLES

Excelcior, 390 Fifth Ave. at Seventh Street, (718) 788-0924.
Ginger's Pub, 363 Fifth Ave. at Fifth Street, (718) 788-0924.

Park Slope Food Co-op, 782 Union St. at Seventh Avenue, (718) 622-0560, www.foodcoop.com.

Pink Pussycat Boutique, 355 Fifth Ave. at Fifth Street, (718) 369-0088.

Prospect Park Women's Softball League, Prospect Park, field 1, enter at 15th Street, www.ppwsl.org.

THAT Bar, 116 Smith St. at Dean Street, (718) 260-8900, www.thatbar.net.

The Rising-Sweet Mama's, 186 Fifth Ave. at Berkeley Place, (718) 622-5072, www.risingcafe.com.

fried kitchen coincided with a shift to a more mixed crowd, said Rising co-owner Anne Mergli.

"We're trying to be a mixed community space that's gay friendly," she said, emphasizing

the profile of music acts like Girtyman and Cat Martini. "This part of Park Slope is bedroom [sic], we're not really trying to be a singles scene." Still, it seems a nice place for a first date.

Playing together

After dinner, it's time for dessert. Conveniently located just a few storefronts from Ginger's Pub, the Pink Pussycat Boutique, 355 Fifth Ave. at Fifth Street, doesn't sell sweets, but does offer a selection of toys and accessories to spice up an evening at home, should things move past the cuddling stage.

For those more interested in team sports, there is the Prospect Park Women's Softball League. Tryouts are over for this season, but spectators and cheerleaders are always welcome to nightly games beginning at 6:25 pm sharp. Monday through Friday, in field 1 of Prospect Park, easily accessible via the 15th Street entrance. Flammingoes coach Joan Scholvin stresses that the league is open to all women, although the vast majority are

lesbian or bisexual. The schedule of matches is online at www.ppwsl.org.

Healthy love

There's something about healthy eating that sees a lesbian's heart racing, at least according to Becca Elish, the mastermind behind the "queer-friendly vegan potluck" at the Park Slope Food Co-op. Non-Co-op-members are welcome at this monthly event, which takes place the second Friday of every month at the Co-op, 782 Union St. at Seventh Avenue. A few lucky individuals may come away with more than a belly full of tofu and salad.

Elish said that nearly a year ago, when she held the first potluck, "I didn't have a girlfriend." Now she laughingly admits to having made "at least three" connections since then. Admission is \$3. Bring a veggie dish to share with six.

The Co-op itself has its fair share of lesbian love matches. "Lesbians seem to be into health food and co-operative living. Guys are always looking for an open environment where you can feel comfortable no matter where you are," said Co-op office coordinator Karen Mancuso, 29, who met her girlfriend at the Co-op.

"As far as why lesbians are into tofu, I don't know why," she said. "It's like this hotbed of female lesbian activity."

All prospective Co-op members must attend a two-hour orientation before joining, as well as pay a one-time joiner's fee of \$25 and a \$100 investment fee. Members must also work a 2 hour and 45 minute shift every four weeks.

So hasten forth, single lesbians of Park Slope and try your luck at these locations. And while there's no guarantee that you'll find Melissa, Martina, Rosie, k.d. or even your re-member, there's even less chance of finding love at home, on the couch with the cat.



BKLYNDESIGNS

CIRCUS...

Continued from page GO 1
ent of kinds of music on a variety of instruments, from tuba and banjo to homemade percussion and flute; and Billy Bones the Good Pirate, who will be running a pirate's academy with the audience.

"We're going to turn the entire audience into a pirate academy from where they're seated," said Gersch.

For those who prefer deeds of daring, Fran Sperling will demonstrate her aerial artistry on the single trapeze.

Gersch, who occasionally does "a little balancing and juggling" to fill in if there's a need, said, "This year I'll be enhancing my role with an

ocean throne" decorated with sea weed, shells and sea creatures.

"Because our space is small, I'm often standing on the stage. I have not liked being so omnipresent, so I've decided to seat myself," she said. "But it wouldn't be right for me to seat myself with the audience. Therefore I will have a small throne at the edge of the stage."

Another circus attraction will be an exhibition of William King's color photographs of the past six years of CIRCUSundays.

CIRCUSundays, said Gersch, are more than circuses;

THEATER

CIRCUSundays presents two shows, at 1 pm and 4:30 pm, on June 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 at the Showboat Barge, docked at the Columbus Street Marine Terminal in Gowanus Bay, entrance at 699 Columbia St., in Red Hook.

Shows go on rain or shine. Advance ring-side reservations are \$10, \$5 tickets at the door. First-come, first-served seating. A Free Con Edison shuttle bus offers transportation from Park Slope, Brooklyn Heights, Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens and Red Hook. For more information, call (718) 624-4719 or log on to www.waterfrontmuseum.org.

they're also vaudeville and variety shows. But it's really the boat that makes them so unique.

"The space is set up more like a theater than a circus," said Gersch. "We have blue velvet drapes, a wooden floor, professional theater lights and

a lot of natural light because the doors are open. On one side of the stage, the audience sees the water, on the other side, the pier — where the overflow watches the show because there is no more room on the boat.

The space also contributes to a feeling of intimacy. "You'll never see a circus as close," said Gersch. "You're right there."

And, of course, this is a family-oriented show.

"We put children on the floor down front," she said. "There's an old-fashioned feel to it. People picnic and gather outside. Shows change every weekend, so some families come back every weekend." "The magic of the place," Gersch said, "makes it such an enchanted show."

b

COME SEE THE NEXT WAVE OF CONTEMPORARY FURNISHINGS MADE IN BROOKLYN. JUNE 13-15, ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE, 38 WATER STREET, DUMBO, BROOKLYN. TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED ON TICKETWEB.COM OR AT THE DOOR DURING THE EVENT. FOR MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING EVENT SCHEDULE AND FREE SEMINARS VISIT WWW.BROOKLYNDESIGNS.NET. BROOKLYN DESIGNS IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE BROOKLYN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

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Sheephead Bay Development Corporation hosts a talk for co-op and homeowners. Learn how to protect your rights to government entitlement benefits for your home. 10 am to noon. Bay Senior Center, 3679 Nostrand Ave. (718) 332-0582.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY: Urban Park Rangers lead a tour of the Salt Marsh Nature Center. 10 am. Meet at 3302 Ave. U. (718) 595-2150.

FILM SALON: Brooklyn Young Filmmakers hosts "Still Out There," a film salon on sexuality and relationships. \$5, 6 to 8:30 pm. Spike Lee Screening Room, Long Island University, corner of Flatbush and DeKalb avenues. (718) 852-0342.

DISCUSSION GROUP: Brooklyn Public Library, Central branch, hosts a reading and discussion group examining the quest for meaningful religious practice in American society. Registration necessary. 6 to 8 pm. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

YOGA: Introductory talk and instruction. 6 pm. Devi Center, 837 Union St. (877) MEDITATE. Free.

FASHION SHOW: Brooklyn Community Housing and Services hosts a benefit fashion show "Fashion on Fulton." 6 pm. Brooklyn Museum of Art, 200 Eastern Parkway. Call for ticket info. (718) 623-4545.

SEMINAR: Brooklyn Arts Council hosts a talk for artists and arts organizations "Financial Management for Small to Mid-Sized Arts Organizations." 6:30 to 8:30 pm. WVCA of Brooklyn, 30 Third Ave. (718) 625-0080. Free.

SUNSET SHANGRI-LA: Brooklyn Bridge Park Coalition hosts a benefit gala to honor Mayor Bloomberg, Michael O'Keefe and Olga Bloom. Hors d'oeuvres and wine, dancing, music, fireboat display. \$100, \$20 kids 5 to 17. 6:30 to 9 pm. Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park, between the Brooklyn and Manhattan Bridges on Water Street. (718) 802-0603.

DINNER DANCE: Bay Ridge Community Council hosts its annual event. 7 pm. New York Methodist Hospital, Sixth Street between Seventh and Eighth avenues. (718) 832-8227.

BARGE MUSIC: chamber music program by Copland, Schumann, Beethoven and Chopin. \$35. 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS: New York Amateur

Astronomers Association search for the moon, planets and stars through telescopes. 8 pm. Meet in front of War Memorial Building, Cadman Plaza Park, between Heights. (718) 854-7804. Free.

EUROPA DANCE CLUB: The Horn Band, Ghost Fever and Meades Mumpus Rubella perform. \$5, \$10, \$15, \$20. Meades St. (718) 383-5273.

MUSIC: The Celeste Ray Ensemble. Program features medieval music. \$10, \$15. First Unitarian Church, 50 Monroe St. (718) 975-2157.

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: Danklunk plays guitar. \$5, 9 pm. 70 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.

SPRING FEVER: Brooklyn Lyeum presents works in progress by "Groundwork." 7 pm. Also, Blum Dance Theater presents "Ego: My Mother's Eye Ball" and "Whimsical Bloodhound." 8 pm. \$12 per show. 227 Fourth Ave. (347) 683-7698.

LOW BAR: Acoustic music with Jan Bell. No cover. 10 pm. 81 Washington St. (718) 222-1200.

BLACK BOX SERIES: Gallery Players. 8 pm. See Sat.

FRI, JUNE 6

BAMCINEMATEK: "Village Voice Take 4" film critics poll presents: "Far From Heaven" (2002). \$10, Q & A with special guest actress Salma Hayek. 8 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 595-2150.

RECEPTION: The Object Image Gallery presents paintings and drawings by Robert Weiss. 6 to 9 pm. 91 Fifth Ave. (718) 623-2334. Free.

AUCTION: at Salem Lutheran Church to benefit homeless animals. 6:30 pm. 450 67th St. (718) 612-4308, ask for Daggy.

BARGE MUSIC: chamber music program by Bartok, Berio, Ysaie and Bach. \$35. 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

GOOD COFFEEHOUSE: Tomas Rodriguez plays guitar. \$10, 8 pm. 53 Prospect Park West. (718) 783-2296.

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: Go Indie Festival Live Showcase. \$5, 9 pm. 70 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.

SPRING FEVER: Brooklyn Lyeum presents "Random Violence" at 7:30 pm. Blum Dance Theater at 9 pm. film "High Life and The Love of Inanimate Objects" at 10 pm. \$12 per show. 227 Fourth Ave. (347) 683-7698.

TWO BOOTS: Reverend Essence and the Mojo Workers. 10 pm. No cover. \$14 Second St. (718) 499-3253.

BLACK BOX SERIES: Gallery Players. 8 pm. See Sat.

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